

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 751

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to recognize Mr. Haywood Harris on the
occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those persons who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of this Volunteer State have viewed with great interest and excitement the University of Tennessee men's athletic program as it has evolved and excelled over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Haywood Harris is one estimable person who has served with probity for 39 years as Sports Information Director for the Men's Athletic Department at the University of Tennessee; he announced his retirement effective April 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, a native of Maryville, Mr. Harris attended Knoxville High School and subsequently began his meritorious service to the University of Tennessee as a student; and

WHEREAS, a former newspaperman in Knoxville and Charlotte, North Carolina, Mr. Harris holds the respect of the two worlds he so proficiently bridges, journalism and athletics; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, Haywood Harris was deservedly appointed Sports Information Director by General Robert Neyland and since then has been acclaimed as the Vols' Chief Spokesman and Media Liaison; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Haywood's retirement comes on the heels of the retirement of the voice of the Vols, John Ward; the Big Orange hierarchy will be without two of the living legends that were instrumental in establishing the tremendous Volunteer program; and

WHEREAS, while John Ward was the direct link between fans and the Vols', Haywood Harris dedicated his efforts behind the scenes as publicity minister and link between Tennessee's coaches and the media on a local and national level; and

WHEREAS, regarded as a friend by both the local media who cover the Vols on a daily basis and the national writers and broadcasters, Mr. Harris is considered low-key, precise, and unfailingly considerate; and

WHEREAS, Haywood's numerous contributions to the University have won him the respect and admiration of his peers; UT athletic director Doug Dickey praised him as a "consummate professional in whatever he undertook and his actions always reflected in a positive way on the University of Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, Haywood Harris humbly reflects on his post at UT, "When I got this job I knew it was absolutely the finest job a guy like me could have. It gave me a chance to combine two of my great interests, a love for UT and to be able to associate with friends in the news media, plus to do some good writing"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris' dedication to the athletic program extends well beyond media relations; he was the keeper of the scorebook at basketball games, and assisted in the selection of majorettes with his friend and colleague, Gus Manning; and

WHEREAS, Haywood will continue to be a prominent aspect of the athletic program in both football and basketball games through his service as special assistant to Doug Dickey; his future at UT will also include writing a book about UT's various football championships and maintaining the athletic department archives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris enjoys the love and companionship of his devoted wife, Carolyn; together they enjoy escaping to their cabin in Walland; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement, Mr. Harris looks forward to concentrating on writing and interviewing historically significant Tennesseans as well as taking part in his other passions: jogging, conservative politics, and country music; and

WHEREAS, Haywood Harris exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, he has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their full potential, and assisted in creating one of the nation's most outstanding university athletic programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend to Mr. Haywood Harris, consummate professional, dedicated Volunteer, and loyal friend, our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.